

PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION SHEET

SARS CASE REPORTING

SARS is a reportable disease in Massachusetts (in accordance with 105 CMR 300.000). Suspect cases of SARS should be reported to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

If a case is confirmed as SARS-CoV infection per the current CDC case definition, a SARS case report form must be completed and faxed to the MDPH Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6813. Forms can be obtained by visiting www.state.ma.us/dph. This information will help MDPH identify likely sources of exposure and other potential cases.

MDPH staff will notify the local public health officials in the city/town where the case (probable or confirmed) resides. Other cities/towns affected will also be notified.

SARS SURVEILLANCE

SARS surveillance is taking place at the international, national, state, and local levels. The type and extent of surveillance depends on whether or not SARS has been identified outside or within the United States.

International Surveillance

The World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for international surveillance and reporting of SARS. The most up-to-date information can be found by visiting: www.who.int/csr/sars/en/.

National Surveillance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains national SARS surveillance. The CDC SARS website is kept current with information for healthcare providers, public health professionals, and the general public. Visit www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/ for the most up-to-date information.

Massachusetts Surveillance

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) maintains state SARS surveillance. MDPH has developed a state surveillance and response plan to help identify, manage, and control SARS. The plan is available on the MDPH website, www.state.ma.us/dph, along with updated SARS information for healthcare providers, public health professionals, and the general public. Healthcare providers with questions or seeking additional information can call the MDPH Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at 617-983-6800.